

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 00735 131518Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 MCT-01 /063 W
-----090087 132235Z /75

R 131454Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 507
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, IS
SUBJ: WEST BANK REACTION TO PALESTINIAN COMMANDO RAID

1. SUMMARY: ARABIC PRESS REACTION TO MARCH 11 PALESTINIAN
COMMANDO OPERATION HAS BEEN SUBDUED. PREVAILING MORAL: THE
PALESTINIANS CANNOT BE EXCLUDED FROM A PEACE SETTLEMENT.
INITIAL PRIVATE REACTION MIXED. END SUMMARY.

2. WHILE STORY OF PALESTINIAN COMMANDO OPERATION WAS
BANNERED BY LOCAL ARABIC PRESS OVER THE WEEKEND, EDITORIAL
REACTION HAS BEEN SUBDUED. THE MORE EXTREME PAPERS HAVE
AVOIDED DIRECT COMMENT, WHILE THE MODERATE "AL QUDS" MARCH 13
SPOKE OF "THE CHAIN OF BLOODY AND SAD EVENTS WHICH PROVE
THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING STABILITY IN THE REGION
WITHOUT SOLVING PROBLEMS AT THEIR CORE." WHILE NOTING THE
CENTRALITY OF THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE, "AL QUDS" ALSO CITES
EGYPTIAN MINISTER GHALI AS STATING IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO
ACCELERATE THE PEACE PROCESS TO AVOID FURTHER TRAGEDIES.
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3. INITIAL PRIVATE REACTION HAS BEEN MIXED. SOME TAKE SATIS-
FACTION IN EVEN A SUICIDE ATTACK ON THE GROUNDS THAT PALESTIN-
IANS CAN BETTER AFFORD THE PROBABLE LOSS OF LIFE IN REPRISALS
THAN CAN THE ISRAELIS IN THE INITIAL ATTACK. OTHERS MORE
THOUGHTFULLY FAULT THE PLO FOR INDISCRIMINATE STRIKES AT
CIVILIAN TARGETS WHICH ONLY ACCORD ISRAEL WORLD SYMPATHY AND

COULD FURTHER HARDEN CURRENT ISRAELI POSITIONS IN
NEGOTIATIONS.
NEWLIN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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